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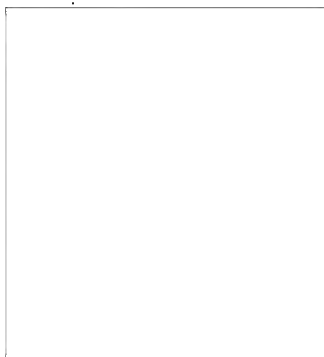
THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

24 OCTOBER 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. USSR



a. After his first interview with Kosygin yesterday, Ambassador Kohler described the new premier's manner as "confident, unworried, and affable."

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b. Kosygin said the new government hopes to retain all existing channels of communications with President Johnson and continue "friendly and confidential conversations."

c. Kosygin carefully parroted the official statements already made by the new leaders, suggesting to Kohler that for the present they will indeed stick to the "collective" approach.

d. He repeated earlier assurances that no domestic or international policy changes are contemplated. The government will remain the same, he said, except that the former chairman has "retired."

e. The new premier came down hard on the question of Soviet UN arrearages, particularly emphasizing a determination not to pay any part of the expenses of the Congo operation.

2. Czechoslovakia

a. We continue to see repercussions in Eastern Europe of Khrushchev's departure.

b. On 17 October the Prague regime published plans for a liberal economic reorganization which goes much further than Moscow's experiments along the same line announced several days later.

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c. The Czech decision, taken without waiting to see how events developed in Moscow, suggests Prague wanted to reassure its people that there would be no change in policy. The announcement also demonstrated Prague's determination to run its own affairs.

d. The Czech press and radio have not muffled their praise of Khrushchev.

3. Yugoslavia-USSR

a. Yesterday Belgrade finally published its first official reaction to the change in Moscow.

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b. The Yugoslavs mention receiving a reassuring note from the USSR, but go on to say they are somewhat concerned that the new Soviet leadership is associating itself with earlier anti-Yugoslav policies.

(Cont'd)

c. They are particularly upset by repeated statements that the Soviet party reaffirms the decisions of the 21st Party Congress as well as the 20th and 22nd. At the latter two, Moscow was on a pro-Yugoslav zig, but at the 21st it was zagging.

4. USSR

a. In Moscow the new leaders have apparently begun to react to the ferment their coup has kicked up among the European parties.

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b. Delegations from the French, Italian, and Austrian Communist parties are to visit Moscow within the next few days.

c. A Soviet VIP flight landed in Warsaw on 23 October, and another possible VIP flight arrived in Bulgaria the day before. A high-level Soviet mission, substituting for the late Marshal Biryuzov, arrived in Yugoslavia on the 20th.

d. Suslov may have been on the flight to Poland. He was the only top Soviet official absent from yesterday's funeral services for Biryuzov in Moscow.

(Cont'd)

e. There have been, however, no VIP flights which would substantiate rumors of a Soviet mission to Peiping.

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f. As a footnote to all of this, we note that there are tentative signs of some degree of military alert in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany. This activity may reflect general uneasiness, but we see no indications that these regimes expect serious trouble.

5. USSR


a. On the domestic front, the Soviet party goes forward with making Khrushchev an un-person.

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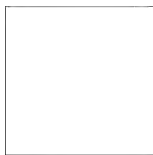
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c. Material already in print but not yet released should be discussed with party officials, the decision to destroy being made on the basis of such factors as the value and number of copies.

d. Portraits of the former chief were to be removed from sale and taken down from display. His published works, however, were not to be removed from libraries and definitely not turned over for reduction to pulp. 

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6. Communist China



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7. South Vietnam

a. General Minh says the new Chief of State will be chosen today.

b. He claims he is not sure he will accept it if it means leaving the army. Ambassador Taylor thinks the temptation will be too much for the general to resist.

c. Minh says, surprisingly, that he and Khanh have agreed on a list of candidates for the premiership. It includes Mayor of Saigon, Huong, Interior Minister, Vien, and Vu Van Mau.

d. The signals have been switched somewhat on the acquittal of the 13 officers involved in last month's coup attempt.

e. Taylor reports that they will all be placed under 30-60 days' house arrest. In addition, Generals Phat, Duc, and Lam and five of the colonels will resign.

f. Presumably, this reversal will allay some of the suspicion among the Buddhists that Khanh had staged the coup himself.

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NOTES

- A. UN-China At the UNESCO meeting in Paris, the vote on Chinese representation was not as close as expected. Most of the nations which may change their positions are apparently holding off until the General Assembly.

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- C. USSR A Soviet nuclear submarine patrol in the eastern Atlantic

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One or two nuclear submarines may have been among those which monitored NATO Exercise Teamwork in the North Atlantic last month.

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- D. Bolivia Student rioting struck La Paz yesterday, as it had Cochabamba the day before. Communists and rightists both led the outbreak in protest primarily against President Paz, although they also disapprove of Vice President Barrientos. More disorders could occur today.

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For The President Only - Top Secret

E. France De Gaulle is showing no ill-effects
from his long South American tour. He is
again in full charge of the government and
meeting a busy social and diplomatic sched-
ule. His performance is increasing the odds
favoring a run for re-election next year.

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